

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/634,125

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A ~~promoter for increasing plasma volume containing as an active ingredient a gel~~ composition comprising the following components and having a pH in the range of 3 to 4:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Protein that does not | |
| coagulate at pH 3 to pH 4 | 3 - 8 wt.% |
| Calcium | 0.1 - 0.5 wt.% |
| Acids | 0.5 - 3 wt.% |
| Carbohydrate | 4 - 20 wt.% |
| Fat | 0 - 5 wt.% |
| Emulsifying agent | 0 - 0.5 wt.% |
| Agar | 0.1 - 1 wt.% |
| Water | 65 - 90 wt.%, |

wherein said protein that does no coagulate at pH 3 to pH 4 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of whey protein concentrate, whey protein isolate, desalted whey, and protein hydrolysates having a number average molecular weight of 500-10,000.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter~~ gel composition according to claim 1, wherein the gel composition further comprises 0.1 to 20 wt.% of at least one masking agent selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, fermented milk, hard-to-digest dextrin, hydrogenated resistant maltodextrin, nigerooligosaccharide and trehalose.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter~~ gel composition according to claim 1, wherein the gel composition

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further comprises vitamin D in an amount of 0.1×10^{-6} to 10×10^{-6} wt.%.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel composition~~ of claim 1.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter—gel composition~~ according to claim 2, wherein the gel composition further comprises vitamin D in an amount of 0.1×10^{-6} to 10×10^{-6} wt.%.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel composition~~ of claim 2.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel composition~~ of claim 3.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel composition~~ of claim 5.

Claim 9. (New) The gel composition according to claim 1, wherein said protein hydrolysate is a hydrolysate of a protein selected from the group consisting of casein, gelatin, soybean protein and wheat protein.

Claim 10. (New) A method for increasing plasma volume, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, the gel composition of claim 1.

Claim 11. (New) A method for increasing plasma volume, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, the food of claim 4.